

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 127 - HB 173

February 7, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires popular election of all Tennessee judges to an eight-year term beginning with the regular August 2014 election and every eight years thereafter. Authorizes an election to fill a vacancy occurring during the term of office to be held at the next regular August election occurring more than 30 days after the vacancy occurs. Directs the Governor to make an appointment to fulfill the unexpired term until September 1 succeeding the election. Eliminates the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC).

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - \$113,800

Assumptions:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the costs associated with the JNC were \$21,910, and with the JPEC were \$148,812, for the period July 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010. Eliminating both commissions would result in an average recurring decrease in state expenditures of \$113,815 $[(\$170,722 / 18 \text{ months}) \times 12 \text{ months}]$.
- Any increase in state expenditures for ballot modifications is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc

SB 127 - HB 173